

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. An air filter for a vehicle air conditioning/handling system comprising:  
a pleated filter material having a MERV of more than 1; and  
  
a frame for securely holding outer edges of the pleated filter material.
2. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said frame being less than .220 inches in depth and having rails of no more than .625 inches in width.
3. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said pleated filter material comprising a fiber composition of modacrylic/polypropylene and a carrier composition of spunbond polyester.
4. An air filter as claimed in claim 3, said fiber composition being 50 g/m<sup>2</sup> and said carrier composition being 15 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
5. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said filter material having a MERV of 8.
6. An air filter as claimed in claim 2, said filter material having a MERV of 8.
7. An air filter as claimed in claim 3, said filter material having a MERV of 8.
8. An air filter as claimed in claim 4, said filter material having a MERV of 8.

9. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said frame being glued.
10. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said frame being sewn.
11. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, said frame being molded.
12. An air filter as claimed in claim 1, further including wire mesh positioned on one side of said pleated filter material with outer edges of said wire mesh being held within said frame.
13. An air filter as claimed in claim 2, further including wire mesh positioned on one side of said pleated filter material with outer edges of said wire mesh being held within said frame.
14. An air filter as claimed in claim 4, further including wire mesh positioned on one side of said pleated filter material with outer edges of said wire mesh being held within said frame.
15. An air filter as claimed in claim 5, further including wire mesh positioned on one side of said pleated filter material with outer edges of said wire mesh being held within said frame.
16. A method of forming an air filter for a vehicle air conditioning/handling system, said method comprising:  
  
assembling a rectangular frame from front and back frame rails each having a width of no more than 0.625 inches; and

positioning outer edges of a pleated filter material, having a MERV of more than 1, within the rectangular frame.

17. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 16, wherein said assembling the rectangular frame further includes disposing top and bottom rails of the rectangular frame within right and left side rails of the rectangular frame.

18. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 16, further including positioning a wire mesh at one side of the pleated filter material and within the rectangular frame.

19. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 17, further including positioning a wire mesh at one side of the pleated filter material and within the rectangular frame.

20. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 18, wherein an overall depth of the pleated filter material, the wire mesh and the front and back frame rails is equal to or less than 0.22 inches.

21. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 19, wherein an overall depth of the pleated filter material, the wire mesh and the front and back frame rails is equal to or less than 0.22 inches.

22. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 16, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.

23. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 17, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.

24. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 18, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.

25. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 19, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.

26. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 20, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.

27. A method of forming an air filter as claimed in claim 21, the pleated filter material having a MERV of at least 8.